

1       1. A device, for quantitatively collecting, preserving and mailing a specimen of material for later  
2       analysis, which comprises:

3                 a tubular vessel having a first closed end defining at least one sealed access port, a second  
4       open end opposite said first end and a transversal septum in a median portion of said vessel, said  
5       septum dividing said vessel into a first chamber sealed by said closed end and a second chamber  
6       accessible through said second end, said septum further having an axial passageway therethrough  
7       defining a given cross-sectional geometry;

8                 a stopper shaped and dimensioned to close said open end;

9                 a stick projecting axially from said stopper into said vessel and including a  
10      sample-holding distal portion extending through said passageway and into said first chamber  
11      when said stopper is secured upon said open end; and

12                 a cover releasably occluding said sealed access port.

1       2. The device of Claim 1, wherein a section of said stick extending through said passageway has  
2       a cross-sectional geometry substantially symmetrical with said given cross-sectional geometry;  
3       whereby said passageway is sealed by said section.

1       3. The device of Claim 2, wherein said distal portion comprises an oblong cylindrical member  
2       dimensioned to intimately engage through said passageway.

1       4. The device of Claim 3, wherein said member has surface indentations.

- 1       5. The device of Claim 4, wherein said indentations consist of an helicoidal thread..
- 1       6. The device of Claim 2, wherein said sealed access port comprises an end-breakable hollow  
2       nib.
- 1       7. The device of Claim 2, wherein the open end of said vessel and said stopper have cooperating  
2       screw threads.
- 1       8. The device of Claim 6, which further comprises a cover shaped and dimensioned to cap said  
2       closed end and nib.
- 1       9. The device of Claim 8, wherein the open end of said vessel and said cover have cooperating  
2       screw threads.
- 1       10. The device of Claim 2, which further comprises a liquid in said first chamber.
- 1       11. The device of Claim 10, wherein said first chamber is doubly sealed at opposite ends.
- 1       12. The device of Claim 1 which further comprises an outer transport capsule sized and shaped  
2       to fully enclose said vessel, stopper, and cover.

1       13. The device of Claim 12, wherein said capsule comprises a matable pair of open-ended  
2       cylindrical cups, wherein each of said cups comprises a closed end and a resilient pad mounted  
3       upon an inner surface of said closed end.

1       14. The device of Claim 12, wherein said capsule comprises a substantially cylindrical cup and  
2       an end cap.

1       15. The device of Claim 14, wherein said end cap comprises:  
2                  a hollow frusto-conical spring pedestal having an outer surface shaped and dimensioned  
3                  to penetrate a substantially cylindrical hole in an outer surface of said stopper.

1       16. The device of Claim 1, which further comprises an oblong handle having a tip sized to  
2       releasably mount said stopper thereon.

1       17. The device of Claim 16, wherein said handle further comprises a first member slidingly  
2       mounted to a second member.

1       18. The device of Claim 16, wherein said handle further comprises at least two coaxially  
2       telescoping members.

1       19. The device of Claim 16, wherein said handle in a collapsed configuration is sized to be  
2       enclosed within said capsule.

1       20. The device of Claim 1, which further comprises an amount of desiccant located in said  
2       second chamber.

1       21. The device of Claim 1, wherein said sealed access port is releasably sealed by a plug.

1       22. The device of Claim 21, wherein said plug is threaded to releasably engage said first closed  
2       end having cooperative threads.

1       23. The device of Claim 21, wherein said plug comprises a machine graspable outer surface.

1       24. The device of Claim 2, wherein said machine graspable outer surface comprises a faceted  
2       surface.

1       25. The device of Claim 1, wherein said vessel has a tapered outer surface.

1       26. The device of Claim 25, wherein said tapered outer surface is oriented to create a first axially  
2       medial surface portion having a narrower axial cross-section than a second axially medial surface  
3       portion.

1       27. The device of Claim 26, wherein said second axially medial surface portion is located closer  
2       to said first closed end than said first axially medial surface portion.

1       28. The device of Claim 25, wherein said tapered outer surface has a substantially frustro-conical  
2       shape.

1       29. A device, for quantitatively collecting, preserving and mailing a specimen of fecal or other  
2       biological matter for later analysis, which comprises a tubular vessel having a narrow channel  
3       section and first and second opposite ends;

4               a stopper shaped and dimensioned to close said first end;

5               a stick extending from said stopper into said vessel and through said narrow channel  
6       section;

7               said stick comprising a distal end having indentations and being sized to closely engage  
8       said narrow channel;

9               a plug shaped and dimensioned to close said second end; and

10          a cover releasably capping said second end and said plug.

1       30. A method for quantitatively collecting a specimen of biological matter which comprises:

2               dipping the indented distal end of a stick into said matter;

3               inserting said distal end into a vessel through an aperture shaped and dimensioned to  
4       intimately and circumferentially contact said distal end;

5               whereby excess collected matter on the surface of said distal end outside said indentations  
6       are kept out of said vessel by passage of said distal end through said aperture; and

7               introducing into said vessel a measured volume of specimen-preserving fluid.

1       31. The method of Claim 30, wherein said method further comprises:  
2             keeping said excess collected matter in a chamber adjacent to said vessel.

1       32. The method of Claim 31, wherein said keeping comprises:  
2             allowing said excess collected matter to dry.

1       33. The method of Claim 32, wherein said keeping further comprises:  
2             drying said excess collected matter in the presence of a desiccant.